

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9307

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ EXPERTS FOR BERLIN

REFS: (A) STATE 78928; (B) BONN 5438

BEGIN SUMMARY. DIFFERENCES AMONG ALLIES ON NEED FOR PERMITTING BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ (BGS) EXPERTS TO RETURN TO BERLIN WERE BROUGHT OUT INTO THE OPEN IN APRIL 8 BONN GROUP DISCUSSION AND WERE FURTHER DISCUSSED TRIPARTITELY APRIL 9. FRENCH HAVE NOT BUDGED, AND ARE INDEED STRENGTHENED IN THEIR NEGATIVE VIEW BOTH BY REFUSAL OF BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR WORMSER LAST WEEK AND BY RECENT SOVIET PROTESTS ON FRG ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN. THE GERMANS HOPEFULLY NOW HAVE THE MESSAGE THAT NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THEM; WE SENSE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES. END SUMMARY.

1. BGS ITEM APPEARED ON APRIL 8 BONN GROUP AGENDA, AT LAST, AT FRG REQUEST. THERE BEING NO TIME FOR A PRIOR TRIPARTITE SESSION AFTER RECEIPT OF DEPARTMENT'S CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTRUCTIONS (REF A), US REP SECURED AGREEMENT OF FRENCH

REP BY TELEPHONE TO LAY CARDS ON TABLE AND PERMIT FRANK DISCUSSION IN BONN GROUP. FRG REP (KASTRUP) INTRODUCED ITEM BY NOTING REPORT FROM SENAT THAT ALLIED REPS IN BERLIN, FOLLOWING TALKS WITH SENAT, HAD SAID THEY WOULD REPORT TO EMBASSIES IN BONN THAT ALLIES COULD NOT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EXPERTS AND WOULD REPORT BACK TO SENAT RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALLIED EMBASSIES. KASTRUP THEN ASKED WHERE THE MATTER STOOD. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) STATED

(A) FRENCH HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORT RE LACK OF ALLIED CAPABILITY; (B) IT APPEARED THAT ONLY GERMANS COULD DO THE JOB; (C) HE WAS INFORMED--THOUGH HE NOT COMPETENT TO JUDGE PERSONALLY--THAT IN GERMANY ONLY BGS HAD THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE; AND (D) FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT "AS AFFAIRS STAND NOW" THEY WOULD OPPOSE THE SENDING OF BGS TO BERLIN.

2. ASKED BY KASTRUP WHETHER THIS POSITION SHARED BY OTHER ALLIES, UK REP (CULLIMORE) RESPONDED NEGATIVELY, SAID UK WAS PREPARED TO OPERATE ON BASIS THAT BGS EXPERTS WERE NEEDED AND TO FIND A WAY TO BRING THEM TO BERLIN THAT DID NOT CONFLICT WITH ALLIED LEGISLATION. WHEN KASTRUP ASKED WHETHER FRENCH PROBLEM HAD TO DO WITH MODALITIES OF THEIR RETURN TO BERLIN, BOISSIEU ELABORATED FRENCH POSITION: THE PRESENCE OF BGS PERSONNEL IN BERLIN IS PER SE ILLEGAL. PERMITTING SOMETHING THAT IS ILLEGAL WEAKENS THE GENERAL POSITION OF THE ALLIES VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS--AND ABRASIMOV HAD ISSUED A WARNING THAT MIGHT REFER TO BGS IN HIS APRIL 4 CONVERSATION WITH WORMSER--AND WOULD ALSO WEAKEN THE ABILITY OF THE ALLIES TO SUPPORT FRG ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. FRENCH POSITION ALSO INFLUENCED, BOISSIEU CONTINUED, BY FACT THAT "HIGH SENAT OFFICIAL" HAD LESS THAN A WEEK AGO EXPRESSED DOUBT TO WORMSER ABOUT NEED FOR BGS EXPERTS.

3. US REP THEN STATED US POSITION WAS SIMILAR TO BRITISH AND DREW, IN ADDITION, FROM PARA 2, REF A, TO STRESS US VIEW OF ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SECURITY
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AND DANGER THAT LORENZ CASE WAS SIMPLY A DRESS REHEARSAL. US REP ADDED THAT IT SEEMED CLEAR MODALITIES FOR RETURN OF BGS PERSONNEL COULD BE WORKED OUT, AND THAT ENTIRE MATTER NOW HINGED ON DIFFERING APPRECIATIONS OF THE NEED FOR THEIR PRESENCE THERE AT ALL, GIVEN COMMENTS OF SORT TO WHICH FRENCH REP HAD JUST REFERRED.

4. FRG REP SAID HE COULD SAY NOTHING AND WOULD SIMPLY

REPORT BACK TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

5. AT APRIL 9 TRIPARTITE MEETING, BOISSIEU SAID HE HAD
REPORTED PREVIOUS DAY'S DISCUSSION BUT VERY MUCH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05837

DOUBTED QUAI WOULD CONSIDER KASTRUP INQUIRY
AS THE NEW, FORMAL REQUEST FOR WHICH PARIS IS
WAITING BEFORE ASSENTING TO RETURN OF BGS PERSONNEL.
ELABORATING HIS REFERENCE THE PREVIOUS DAY TO A "HIGH
SENAT OFFICIAL", HE SAID THAT AT LUNCH IN BERLIN
APRIL 3 AMBASSADOR WORMSER HAD ASKED SCHEUTZ ABOUT BGS
ISSUE AND GOVERNING MAYOR HAD REFUSED TO DISCUSS IT,
SAYING THIS WAS PURELY A FEDERAL GERMAN AFFAIR IN WHICH
HE DID NOT WISH TO BECOME EMBROILED. BOISSIEU ALSO
CLAIMED THAT FEDERAL AFFAIRS SENATOR STOBBE IS
PERSONALLY AGAINST RETURN OF BGS EXPERTS. AS FOR
ABRASIMOV "WARNING", BOISSIEU SAID HE COULD

NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT ABRASIMOV HAD MEANT BY HIS STATEMENT, MADE IN CONTEXT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT FRG ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SENDING POLICE REINFORCEMENTS TO BERLIN, THAT "THE SENDING BY THE FRG OF MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY FORCES TO BERLIN WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY US AS SOMETHING VERY, VERY GRAVE". CONCEIVABLY IT WAS NO CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE THAN A REFERENCE TO GDR ALLEGATIONS WHICH APPEARED EARLY IN LORENZ CASE THAT MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESWEHR WERE PARTICIPATING IN BERLIN SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPERS. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE SOVIET AWARENESS OF BGS ROLE IN MANHUNT.)

6. US REP DREW FROM REMAINDER OF INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A TO URGE THAT FRENCH RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION EVEN IN ABSENCE OF RENEWED FORMAL REQUEST, AND BOISSIEU AGREED TO REPORT US REQUEST TO PARIS.

7. COMMENT: THE GERMAN PERFORMANCE ON THE RETURN OF THE BGS EXPERTS TO BERLIN IS RATHER PUZZLING -- EVEN WITH ALLOWANCE FOR THE FACT THAT WE ARE GOING BY FRENCH ACCOUNTS. WE UNDERSTAND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, AND THE BGS ITSELF, FEELS STRONGLY THAT BGS ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED. ON THE OTHER HAND, FIRST VAN WELL FAILED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE ISSUE WITH HIS FRENCH OPPOSITE NUMBER, THEN SCHUETZ DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AT ALL WITH WORMSER, AND IN ADDITION THERE IS THE REPORT OF STOBBE'S OPPOSITION. APART FROM THE FRENCH REPORTS, HOWEVER, WE TOO HAVE NOTED A SURPRISING FAILURE ON THE GERMAN POLITICAL SIDE IN BONN TO PRESS FOR AN ALLIED RESPONSE. THERE HAS BEEN AMPLE TIME AND OCCASION FOR THEM TO DO SO, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY PASSIVE. FRENCH DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT THE GERMANS REALLY WANT HAVE SPREAD TO THE BRITISH HERE WHO, WHILE SUPPORTING US VIEWS IN TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS, HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT AMBASSADOR HENDERSON HAS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WOULD SEEM THAT ONLY A VIGOROUS APPROACH BY THE GERMANS WILL MOVE MATTERS FORWARD. WE BELIEVE THE BONN GROUP DISCUSSION WAS SUFFICIENTLY POINTED FOR THE FRG TO REALIZE THAT THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THEM.

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